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said stop and said winding mechanism share common structure;  
said winding mechanism forms a rotatable connection between said spool and said housing, said winding teeth rotatable with the housing being on a housing side of said rotatable connection, and said winding teeth rotatable with said spool being on a spool side of said rotatable connection.

#### REMARKS

The claims have been amended to improve the style of this application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful reading of the claims, for pointing out discrepancies, and for providing suggestions. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating that the proposed drawing corrections have been approved, and that claims 41 - 56 and 77 - 80 are allowed.

Applicant notes that claims 57 - 76 have been indicated as being withdrawn from consideration. Claims 57 - 76 depend directly or indirectly from claim 41, which has been indicated to be allowed. It is Applicant's understanding that claims 57 - 76 should now also be allowable.

Claim 48 has been rejected with regard to the retention members being vague and indefinite as to what disclosed structure it refers. Applicant notes that the retention members are part of the stop which holds the spool in the housing. In the embodiment of Fig. 1, the retention members include the journal 9. In the embodiment of Figs. 3 - 10, the retention members include the tabs 141 and 241. In the embodiment of Figs. 11 - 13, the retention members include the pegs 341. The tabs and pegs, and other retention member structure are

discussed in the present specification on page 12 lines 24 - 26. Applicant notes that the retention members in claim 48 are considered to be structure which act against the force of the spring action member, and prevent the spring action member from escaping from the housing when the housing is open to enable the supply of cutting line to be wound onto the spool.

Claim 49 has been rejected with regard to the first stop or group of stops, and how it relates to the stop set forth in claim 1. Applicant notes that claim 1 has been canceled and Applicant assumes the Examiner is referring to claim 41. Applicant has amended claim 49 to set forth that the stops are feed stops, and therefore are different from the stop in claim 41. In the embodiment of Fig. 3, the feed stops are represented by reference 128. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions for alternate wording of this structure, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative by telephone to discuss possible changes.

Claim 77 has been rejected because structural cooperation is not positively provided for the cutting line. The Office Action suggests changing the term "windable" to "wound". Applicant has reviewed claim 77, and notes that the cutting line itself is not intended to be a feature or limitation of claim 77. Instead the cutting line is being used to describe the spool by setting forth that the cutting line is windable on the spool. Applicant does not wish to limit the patent protection of claim 77 to cutting heads which include cutting line, but instead to spools where the cutting line is windable on the spool. If the Examiner desires, claim 77 can be amended similar to the wording in claim 44 which sets forth a spool on which a line can be wound. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions for alternate wording of claim 77, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative by telephone to discuss possible

changes.

Applicant again thanks the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter. It is Applicant's position that this application is now in conformance with U.S. patent regulations and respectfully requests that this application be passed to issuance. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which would further favorable prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative by telephone to discuss possible changes.

At this time Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, and based on the above amendments and remarks, respectfully solicits allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted  
for Applicant,

By: 

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TD:tf  
63286RCE.4

Enclosed: Marked-Up Version of the Claims

DATED: December 30, 2002  
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SHOULD ANY OTHER FEE BE REQUIRED, THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE IS HEREBY REQUESTED TO CHARGE SUCH FEE TO OUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 13-0410.

## MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE CLAIMS

41. (~~New~~Amended) A grass-cutting head with a line, the head comprising:  
a housing;  
at least one spool placed in said housing and on which a line can be wound, said spool including an anchor for the line, said anchor being arranged to be accessible from outside said housing to enable the line to be connected to said anchor of said spool without taking said spool out of said housing;  
a feed mechanism in said housing for feeding the line from said spool;  
a winding mechanism in said housing for rotating said spool to enable a supply of the line to be wound onto said spool;  
a stop connected to said housing to hold said spool in said housing while the line is being connected to said anchor.

42. (~~New~~Amended) A grass-cutting head in accordance with claim 41, wherein:  
said winding mechanism rotates said spool from outside at least a portion of said housing without taking said spool out of said housing;  
said stop ~~means~~ holds said spool in said housing while said supply of line is being wound onto said spool.

44. (~~New~~Amended) A grass-cutting head in accordance with claim 41, wherein:  
said spool defines a center opening;  
said stop and said housing connect to each other through said center opening of said spool;  
said stop extends radially outward ~~farther~~ than said center opening of said spool.

45. (~~New~~Amended) A grass-cutting head in accordance with claim 44, wherein:  
said anchor is arranged radially ~~farther~~ outward than said stop.

49. (~~New~~Amended) A grass-cutting head in accordance with claim 41, wherein:  
said feed mechanism comprises in combination an actuating slider, a first series of feeding teeth integral with said spool and a second series of feeding teeth integral with said spool, feed teeth of the first series engaging with a first feed stop or group of feed stops rotationally fixed to said housing and feed teeth of the second series engaging with a second feed stop or group of feed stops rotationally fixed to said housing, positions of arrest of said spool defined by the first series of feed teeth and by the first feed stop or group of feed stops

being angularly offset relative to positions of arrest of said spool defined by the second series of feed teeth and by the second feed stop or group of feed stops;

and movement of said actuating slider causes an axial movement of the spool between two positions to bring the feed teeth of the first series or the feed teeth of the second series alternately into engagement with their respective feed stops, the spring-action member exerting a force on the spool.

50. (NewAmended) A grass-cutting head in accordance with claim 49, wherein:  
said housing includes a housing portion through which extends an axial hub of a rotary drive, and said spool being placed around said housing portion;

said stop includes a support connected to said housing, said support rotatably holding said spool between said housing and said support, said support defining axially elongated openings;

said first feed stop and said second feed stop are connected to said actuating slider, said first and second feed stops pass through said axially elongate openings in said support and engage with said feed teeth on the spool; and

an annular cover closes said housing and extends around the support for said spool.

77. (NewAmended) A cutting head comprising:

a housing;

a spool rotatably mounted in said housing, cutting line being windable on said spool;

a feed mechanism in said housing for rotating said spool in an unwinding direction in said housing and feeding the cutting line off of said spool;

a winding mechanism in said housing for rotating said spool in a winding direction while said spool is in said housing and winding the cutting line onto said spool, said winding mechanism including winding teeth rotatable with said spool and winding teeth fixed on said housing, said winding teeth having a shape to slide past each other when said spool is wound in said winding direction, said shape of said winding teeth blocking rotation of said spool with respect to said housing in said unwinding direction;

a stop connected to said housing and blocking separation of said spool from said housing during winding of cutting line by said winding mechanism, said stop including a support connected to said housing, said support rotatably holding said spool between said housing and said support.

79. (NewAmended) A head in accordance with claim 77, wherein:

said feed mechanism bypasses said winding mechanism to feed the cutting line off said spool.

80. (New Amended) A head in accordance with claim 77, wherein:  
said stop and said winding mechanism share common structure;  
said winding connection mechanism forms a rotatable connection between said spool and  
said housing, said winding teeth rotatable with the housing being on a housing side of said  
rotatable connection, and said winding teeth rotatable with said spool being on a spool side of  
said rotatable connection.

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